NAVY: So far, one case of corruption has been established at Naval Recruitment Centre, Mumbai. The person found guilty has been discharged from Naval Service.

AIR FORCE: No complaints have been received in the recent past.

**Feasibility of LCA**

1171. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether under Light Combat Aircraft production programme, 70 per cent indigenous parts are Indian and LCA Programme Director has assured that the aircraft would not become obsolete at the time of induction;

(b) whether Russia has offered to be a partner in India's LCA's serial production, if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) what is the actual demand in the country of such aircraft indicating whether all that components needed for LCA are available at present?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. Indigenous content of the first Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Technology Demonstrator (TD-1) is nearly 70% and it is likely to be higher during the production of aircraft. LCA would not be obsolete as it has been designed with the state-of-the-art technologies that would remain current during the induction and operational phase of LCA.

(b) There is no formal proposal for joint development of LCA with Russia.

(c) The estimated requirement for the Air Force is 200 LCA fighters and 20 LCA trainers. Requirements of Navy for LCA naval variant is under evaluation. Most of the components needed for LCA are available from indigenous or third country sources.

**Milan accident**

1172. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the demonstration of a short range surface to surface missile 'Milan' at Hyderabad on 4th January, 2001 fire broke out with a bang of explosion killing a supervisor and injuring several other persons; and

(b) if so, the cause of the fire and the explosion as the result of test firing of the missile?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) On 4th January, 2001 during the explanation of the working and loading of launcher at Bharat Dynamics Limited, Hyderabad, the accidental firing of a short range Milan missile took place. This resulted in outbreak of fire and also the death of a Quality Control Inspector, and injury to three other officers. The missile did not explode but there was slow combustion of the explosive.

A Committee was constituted immediately to *inter alia* investigate the causes of the accident. The Committee has since submitted its report. The Committee has concluded that the accident was not as a result of any sabotage but because of human error in wrongly loading a missile and pressing the push button (triggering) on the launcher in the process of explaining its working. The investigation has also concluded that the presence of the launcher in the building used for assembling the missiles was a contributory factor.

**Non-practising allowance to doctors of AMS**

1173. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether non-practising allowance payable to Army Medical Service (AMS) doctors is not considered as part of pay for computing their TA entitlement as is done in the case of other Central Health Service doctors;

(b) if so, the reasons for this discrimination;

(c) whether this practice has lately been reviewed by Government; and

(d) if so, the decision taken in the matter to bring AMS doctors at par with other Central Government Medical Doctors in the matter of entitlement to Travelling Allowances?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Non-practising allowance is considered as a part of Pay for the purpose of travelling allowance entitlement of the Army Medical Services (AMS) doctors, as in the case of Central Health Service doctors.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.